

April 28, 2017

Cassandra Enos-Nobriga
Deputy Executive Officer, Planning
Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Draft of Proposed Delta Plan Draft Amendments

Dear Ms. Enos-Nobriga

I have worked for a District Engineer in the Delta for the last 11 years and I intend to become one someday. While I work with the levees, these comments are coming from a kid who literally grew up on a levee. The Delta is my home, my place. Not my evolving place though. That's a different point of contention. In this comment, I will stick to discussing the levees in terms of water supply reliability.

The Delta levees faced a major test this past winter and performed very well. We had some close calls, but they passed. While nothing comes second to immediate response, we had a great base to start from due to the maintenance and rehabilitation work that was done through the Delta Levee Subvention Program. Since the inception of the Subventions program in 1973, how often have we had levee failure that caused the pumps to shut down? Jones Tract? How often was water supply curtailed due to drought? In just the last five years more water supply was most likely curtailed due to the drought than any levee failure in 40 years. The problem here is not conveyance, it's water supply. The levees are providing for conveyance and they have proven themselves to be reliable over four decades. Yes, they do require continued funding for maintenance, but so does any infrastructure project. Look at what happened to the Oroville Dam due to deferred maintenance.

The powers that be want to add a new isolated conveyance facility to the system, which will also need funding for maintenance, that is after they figure out how to foot its \$15 billion dollar construction bill. The Delta Levee Subventions program costs \$12 million a year. The program is doing a pretty good job at delivering water supply reliability while also protecting roads, the ecosystem, agriculture, small communities, utilities, the coequal goals. The preferred alternative for the Water Fix calls for a dual conveyance, so in either conveyance situation, the levees will always be necessary. If we are only talking about conveyance, and the levees have provided reliable conveyance, why is the isolated conveyance facility needed? The isolated conveyance facility only provides for one goal, water supply. I urge you to deny approval of the conveyance amendments to the Delta Plan because they are inconsistent with the co-equal goals.

Thank you for your consideration.


Emily Pappalardo

Delta Resident

Delta Recreationalist

Employee at DCC Engineering in Walnut Grove